

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07  
NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02  
LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04  
CEA-01 /081 W  
-----072826 241200Z /47

R 240927Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3008  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USDOC WASHDC  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1734

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EALR, EIND, MMOL, ECRP, CZ  
SUBJECT: MOTOR VEHICLES: TATRA TO DROP LIMOUSINES, SPECIALIZE  
IN TRUCKS

REFS: (A) PRAGUE 0887 (NOTAL), (B) PRAGUE 3026 (NOTAL)

1. STORY IN JUNE 21 EDITION OF SVOBODNE SLOVO STATED THAT  
STARTING IN 1981 TATRA WORKS IN KOPRIVNICE, MORAVIA, WILL  
PRODUCE ONLY TATRA-815 TYPE HIGH-PERFORMANCE TRUCK, WITH  
DIFFERENT VERSIONS USING SAME SPARE PARTS. ANNUAL TRUCK  
OUTPUT TARGET FOR END OF SIXTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN 1980 WILL  
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BE 15,000 UNITS. 500 MILLION CROWNS (HIGHLY INFLATED  
OFFICIAL RATE IS APPROXIMATELY 5.6 CROWNS EQUAL ONE U.S.  
DOLLAR) ARE TO BE INVESTED IN 1977 ALONE FOR "BUILDUP" OF  
TATRA WORKS.

2. ON RALTED TOPIC, E/C COUNSELOR RECENTLY WAS TOLD  
BY CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS ARE

NEGOTIATING WITH VOLVO AND PERHAPS OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN AUTOMOBILE PRODUCERS FOR COOPERATION AGREEMENT INVOLVING TATRA. ALTHOUGH DETAILS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, DEAL WOULD INVOLVE TATRA PRODUCING ENGINES FOR EXPORT IN EXCHANGE FOR AUTOS OR OTHER GOODS.

3. COMMENT: NEWSPAPER REPORT CLEARLY INDICATES THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL STOP PRODUCING TATRA PRESTIGE LIMOUSINES, WHICH HAVE PROVIDED EGO TRIPS FOR GOC BIG SHOTS AND A SERIOUS DRAIN ON ECONOMIC RESOURCES FOR YEARS. ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF THE OLDER MODEL 603 (WHICH WESTERNERS CALL THE "BATMOBILE") AND THE CURRENT MODEL 613, BOTH AMONG THE MOST COSTLY AUTOS PRODUCED IN THE WORLD, HAS EVIDENTLY NEVER RISEN ABOVE ABOUT 1,500 UNITS (REFTELS). EXPORTS HAVE BEEN INSIGNIFICANT. DECISION TO STOP PRODUCTION UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTS A MINOR TRIUMPH OF ECONOMIC RATIONALITY AS WELL AS GOC DECISION TO SPECIALIZE IN HEAVY DUTY TRUCK PRODUCTION FOR WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES.  
BYRNE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, TRUCKS, PRODUCTION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PRAGUE01734  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 PRAGUE 887, 77 PRAGUE 3026  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MOTOR VEHICLES: TATRA TO DROP LIMOUSINES, SPECIALIZE IN TRUCKS  
**TAGS:** EALR, EIND, MMOL, ECRP, CZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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